

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00349 061413Z

61

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 A-01 AID-20 OPR-02 DRC-01 /125 W

----- 121436

P R 061355Z APR 74

FM USINT DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 295

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0349

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, SY

SUBJECT: ALLEGED SYRIAN/ISRAELI MISSILE EXCHANGE

1. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE USINT SOURCE, SYRIAN MILITARY SPOKESMAN CALLED TOGETHER LOCAL NEWSMEN AND NEWS AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES TODAY (APRIL 6) TO INFORM THEM THAT AT 10:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME THIS MORNING ISRAELI FORCES ON THE GOLAN HAD USED SEVERAL SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILES AND THAT THE SYRIAN FORCES HAD RESPONDED IN KIND. ABOUT AN HOUR OR SO LATER THE SAME GROUP WAS CALLED TOGETHER AGAIN AND TOLD TO HOLD THE STORY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. NO EXPLANATION WAS GIVEN FOR THIS COUNTERMANDING ORDER.

2. COMMENT: AT ABOUT 10:00 A.M. A LARGE EXPLOSION WAS FELT AND HEARD THROUGHOUT DAMASCUS. SEVERAL PERSONS HAVE REPORTED THAT THEIR BUILDINGS WERE SHAKEN AND WE CERTAINLY FELT IT AT THE CHANCERY. THIS EXPLOSION WAS PRECEDED THROUGHOUT THE MORNING BY OTHERS ALTHOUGH NOT OF THE SAME INTENSITY. DESPITE THE NOISE AND POSSIBLE FURY ON THE GOLAN, LIFE IN DAMASCUS CONTINUES AT ITS NORMAL PACE. THERE HAS

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BEEN NO NOTICEABLE INCREASE IN TENSION OR CONCERN

AMONG THE DAMASCENES WHOM WE OR OUR DIPLOMATIC
COLLEAGUES HAVE BEEN SEEING OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS.
SCOTES

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NNN

Message Attributes

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